SELECTIONS .

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VERNACULAR NEWSPAPERS

PUBLISHED IN THE PANJAB,

NORTH-WESTERN PROVINCES.

OUDH, CENTRAL PROVINCES AND BERAR.

Received up to 10th July, 1879.

NATIVE STATES.

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THE Oudh Akhbar of the 10th July in refutation of an article which lately appeared in the Famine in Kashmir. correspondence columns of the Pioneer, in condemnation of the famine administration of Kashmir, remarks that it appears from reliable communications received from Kashmir and from respectable newspapers of the Panjáb that the Mahárájá and his officers have spared no pains in relieving the distress of the people. The writer in the Pioneer complains that the distress among the Musalmans has been more severe than among the Hindús. If the complaint is true, its causes may have been satisfactorily explained in the official reports of the Kashmir darbar. If the Muhammadan population is greater than the Hindu, it is but natural that the former should have suffered more from the visitation than the latter. If any State official did not render adequate relief to the Musalmans through race antipathy, we have no doubt that he must have been punished by the Maharaja. When the writer in the Pioneer himself considers the Maharaja to be a good natured and sympathetic ruler, there seems to be

Circulation, 719 copies.



no reason why the Government of India should think his famine administration to be bad. He is one of the most faithful feudatory Chiefs, and the Government of India has repeatedly expressed its approval of his system of administration. A strange rumour is afloat that the Mahárájá has incurred the displeasure of the Government, but this is utterly unfounded. The Government is always kind towards such faithful and able Chiefs as the Mahárájá of Kashmir, We hope that the Government of India will assist him in grappling with the famine as far as posible. The Outh Akhbar then publishes the proclamation lately issued by the Mahárájá, in which he tries to reassure his subjects and declares that he has reduced the rate of shali (paddy) from Rs. 3 per kharwar to Rs. 2, and that of wheat from Rs. 11-12-0 per kharwar, which is the actual price of imported grain, to Rs. 9. No man could hitherto export grain from Kashmir to other parts of the territories of the Mahárájá without the special permission of the State officials, but this restriction has now been removed.

Circulation, 630 copies.

The Roh-i-Núr, Lahore, of the 5th July argues that the The employment of edu-only means by which the native Chiefs cated men in native States. can improve the administration of their States is by engaging the services of well educated men. As the Government of India is at present bent on retrenching public expenditure, many native officers will have to retire from the service. Some of them are very able men, and the native Chiefs should engage their services on their retirement from the service of the Government.

GENERAL ADMINISTRATION.

Circulation, 719 copies.

The Oudh Akhbar of the 5th July, in regard to the The Oudh Civil Courts' Oudh Civil Courts' Bill, remarks that Bill.

public opinion in Oudh appears to be unanimous on the point that a second appeal should not be prohibited, and that if a second appeal is disallowed, the Judicial Commissioner should by no means be deprived of the power of revising the judgments of the lower courts.

We can quote many instances in which the concurrent opinions of two courts have been found to be wrong. Moreover, in suits exceeding Rs. 5,000 in value a regular appeal should lie to the Judicial Commissioner. When in regulation provinces the District Judges are not competent to hear appeals in suits of more than Rs. 5,000, there seems to be no reason why the District Judges in Oudh should be vested with powers to hear appeals up to Rs. 10,000, especially when their decisions are to be final, in case they are in accordance with those of the courts of the first instance. An additional Judge should be appointed to the Judicial Commissioner's Court, especially as the new judicial scheme will increase the appellate work of that court. When there is a difference of opinion between the two Judges on a point of law, the court should refer the matter to the Allahabad High Court. The cost which the appointment of an additional Judge would involve could be made good by the abolition of a Commissionership.

The Arya Mitra of the 4th July, and the Oudh Akhbar of The agricultural classes the 5th July, refer to the causes of Jhánsi. which are generally believed to have led to the present miserable condition of the agricultural classes in Jhánsi, and highly praise the Local Government and the Government of India for the adoption of special relief measures to improve their condition.

The Koh-i-Núr of the 5th July publishes an article,

The license tax.

Communicated by one Sham Lal of
Gurdaspur, in condemnation of the
levy of the license tax. The writer says that although the
tax has been in existence for one year, it continues to occupy
the same amount of public attention as at the time of its
introduction. We wish to make a few remarks on the
subject. Let us first see why this tax was introduced, and
how it has affected the people. It will be remembered
that the tax was levied by the Government with the express

Circulation, 630 copies.



object of providing a fund for the relief of the poor in time of famine, but we regret to say the levy of the tax, far from relieving the distress of the people, has only aggravated their sufferings. Persons are even ready to kill themselves, owing to the severity of the tax. We saw it stated in a late issue of a Benares paper, which is published in English, that a man of the Kahar caste, being unable to pay the tax demanded from him, attempted to commit suicide in the presence of the Judges of the High Court. It is a well known fact how strongly the inhabitants of the Bombay Presidency opposed the levy of the license-tax. It appears from a late number of the Akhbūr-i-Am that riots have taken place in the Godavery district owing to the same cause. Now the question is, why is this tax so unpopular? To our thinking, its unpopularity may be attributed to the following causes:—

First, that the tax has been levied at a time when the whole country is suffering from high prices.

Secondly, that the tax has been very heavily assessed by the district officers, and has become an instrument of oppression in their hands. It appears from a newspaper that a man in the North-Western Provinces was assessed at Rs. 50, and, as he could not pay the assessed fee, all his property was confiscated and sold, and only Rs. 5 or 10 were realized in this way.

Thirdly, that a direct tax is always more unpopular than an indirect one. Had the Government increased the salt tax or any other indirect tax, the increase would not have produced so much discontent as the license tax has done.

Fourthly, that the tax has been imposed only upon some classes of the community. Had it been imposed upon all the classes, it would not be so unpopular as it is at present; first, because the area being extended, the burden upon each individual would be less; secondly, because men do not much fee an evil when it affects all of them. The exemption of the

official and professional classes cannot but be a cause of jealousy to poor traders and artizans.

Fifthly, that although the principle of the English Government—that every man should pay for the good he receives from another—is an excellent one, the Asiatic tribes have not yet made sufficient progress in education and civilization so as to be able to appreciate the merits of this principle. The people were accustomed to obtain relief gratis from the former kings and the rich classes of the community in time of famine, and therefore they are much aggrieved when, instead of receiving any aid from the Government, they are called upon to pay a tax.

Sixthly, that the proceeds of the license tax, which has been levied with such severity, have been devoted to the payment of the cost of the war. When the people see that the famine insurance fund has been misappropriated when a famine is raging in the country, they are naturally unwilling to pay the tax. We always consider it to be our duty to bring our grievances to the notice of our paternal Government, as a child does to its parents. We hope that the Government will remit the license tax. If it be considered necessary to raise an additional revenue, another new tax less unpopular in its nature than the license tax could be levied after some time.

The Urdu Akhbár (published in Marathi at Akola) of the
The increase of the pay
of the naih tahsildars in has decided to reduce the office estaBerar.
blishment of each tahsildar in Berar

by the dismissal of a karkun or munsarim, and to devote the saving which would be effected in this way to increasing the pay of the naib tahsildars. We approve of the proposed increase of pay to the naib tahsildars, but we are afraid that the weakening of the present office establishments of tahsildars will be detrimental to the public service.

Circulation, 200 copies.

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Circulation, 180 copies. The Hindi Pradtp for July says that the Government of

Recent circular regarding the more extended employment of natives in the public service. India has lately sent a circular to all Local Governments and Administrations to the effect that only natives of

India should be appointed to posts of Rs. 200 or more. Some of our countrymen are perhaps much pleased with this circular. But, to our thinking, it is only intended to cajole the natives. We expect no good, but apprehend evil from it. The term natives of India, as explained in the circular, not only applies to the natives, strictly so called, but also to the Eurasians and Europeans who are permanently settled in the country, and therefore we are afraid that the result of the circular may be that Europeans and Eurasians will be admitted to the subordinate judicial and executive services which were hitherto practically monopolized by the natives. This is really what is meant by shrewdness,—one thing in the mouth and another at heart.

The same paper says that the Government of India has The retrenchment of again resolved to retrench public expublic expenditure. penditure. Reductions will be made in every department, especially in the Public Works Department. The Government says that it has decided to economise the finances, so that it may not be obliged to levy new taxes upon the people. It is all very well to say so, but in practice this is not the case. For the last two or three years a new tax is introduced every year. Famine and heavy taxation are now the two great ornaments of our country. However, it is a matter of satisfaction that an idea is growing in the mind of the Government that the natives cannot bear any additional burdens. It is really surprising that although the British empire is the greatest empire on the earth, and although the Government has realized the full land revenue and levies many taxes from the people, it is always in need of money, and raises a clamour for retrenchment every year. The former kings neither exacted a heavy revenue from the zemindars, nor levied so many taxes from the people as the present regime, but still they had not to borrow millions sterling every year, and both they and their subjects were happy. It is difficult to realize why the British Government has a deficit. As regards the question of retrenchment, we are afraid that only some chaprasis and ill-paid clerks will be dismissed. If the pay of the highly paid officers were reduced by ten per cent., a large saving would be effected.

The Nusrat-ul-Akhbár of the 1st July refers to the circular lately issued by the Government of The editors of vernacu-India regarding the more extended lar newspapers. employment of natives in the public service, and praises Lord Lytton for the interest he takes in promoting the welfare of the natives. The writer then urges, like the Mashir-i-Qaisar, that the important services of vernacular newspapers to the country should be rewarded by Government (see page 479 of the Selections for the week ending the 19th June, 1879), khilats and titles should be bestowed upon some distinguished members of the vernacular press, and some should be provided with suitable employment in the public service. Government should also subsidize the press by taking a number of copies of the more important papers, as was done in the time of Sir William Muir.

The death of Lord Lord Lawrence with regret. It appears from the Gazette of India Extraordinary, issued on the 1st July, that His Excellency the Viceroy has received the sad intelligence of his death with deep regret. He was equally loved both by the Government and the public. His official career in India is memorable for several important events, especially for the annexation of the Panjab, the mutiny, and the transfer of the Government of India from the Hon'ble East India Company to the Crown. The death of this great statesman is a matter of deep regret to the public. It must be a matter of satisfaction to his

Circulation, 150 copies.

Circulation, 475 copies.



friends and relatives that he did not commit any act during his whole life which could be considered deserving of censure. The best proof of his great abilities and talents is to be found in the fact that he raised his family to its present dignity by his own personal exertions.

(The death of Lord Lawrence is noticed with regret by many vernacular newspapers.)

Circulation, 150 copies. The Nasim-i-Agra of the 30th June (received on the 4th July), says that great reductions are contemplated in the Public Works Allahabad and Agra.

Department. The construction of pul-

lic works at several places has been already stopped. But the Government should be very careful in stopping unfinished works, because they may be considerably injured by rains and other causes, and a great deal of money may be afterwards required to restore them to their present state. In that case the stoppage of public works will prove far from economical in the long run. It is not wise to make large reductions at once in the Public Works Department. The other branches of administration should be also carefully examined, and economy enforced wherever possible without detriment to the public service.

The writer then proceeds to argue that the Small Cause Courts of Allahabad and Agra should be abolished. It appears from the Administration Report for the North-Western Provinces and Oudh, for the year 1877-78, that the Small Cause Court litigation at Cawnpore, Dehra Dún, Allahabad, Agra, Mirzapur and Moradabad, has decreased since 1875. It was smallest at Gházipur and Bareilly. It is greatest at Agra, but the number of suits decided by the Agra Small Cause Courts in 1877 was less than those decided in 1875 by about 725 suits. Moreover, the work performed by the Subordinate Judge and the Munsif of Agra was less than that performed by the Subordinate Judges and Munsifs in some other districts. The Subordinate Judge of Agra only disposed of 552 cases during the year 1877-78, and the Munsif 5,341; the subor-

dinate Judge of Allahabad 876, and the Munsif 4,561; whereas the Subordinate Judge of Bareilly decided 1,739 suits, and the Munsif 5,943; the Subordinate Judge of Ghazipur 1,160, the Subordinate Judge of Moradabad 1,355, and the Munsif 7,035. It is obvious from these figures that the work done by the Subordinate Judge and the Munsif of each of the three districts of Bareilly, Moradabad and Gházipur was nearly double the work done by those officers at Agra or Allahabad. Nor does the number of suits for immoveable property appear to be great at Agra and Allahabad, because it is expressly stated at page 77 of the last Administration Report, that the largest number of suits for immoveable property were instituted in the districts of Ghazipur, Gorakhpur, Cawnpore, Azamgarh, Bareilly and Farukhabad. In these circumstances there seems to be no reason why the Small Cause Courts of Agra and Allahabad should not be abolished, and the Subordinate Judges and Munsifs of those places entrusted with the powers of Small Cause Courts. We are glad to hear that the Bombay Government has wisely resolved to abolish some Small Cause Courts.

The same paper states that, as the students receive only a literary education at schools, and are The need of the estab taught no industrial art, they naturallishment of industrial schools. ly look to employment in the public service as the only means of earning their livelihood on leaving the school. And the result is that thousands of men are without employment, and the trades and industrial arts are in a very bad condition. Thus, the want of employment from which the natives suffer, and the decline of the industrial arts may be rightly ascribed to the educational policy pursued by the Government. Had the Government established industrial schools for the children of artizans, the condition of the people would never become so bad as it is at present. The writer urges that an industrial class should be attached to each village and middle-class school, and a

Prizes should be given for good specimens of native work-manship. No man who has not passed the middle-class Anglo-vernacular examination or any university examination should be eligible for the public service. As regards the question of the additional cost which the establishment of industrial schools will involve, the Government should generously pay the cost from the provincial revenues. If the Government be unwilling to pay it, it should be defrayed from the district and municipal funds. Moreover, it should be remembered that industrial schools will soon become self-supporting.

The Samáchár Sár (published in Bengali at Allahabad)

Circulation, 500 copies.

of the 7th July, says that when the The famine insurance fund. Government first expressed its intention of levying the license tax, no man raised any objection against it, as it was generally be lieved that the proceeds of the tax would be devoted solely to the prevention and relief of famine. Many of our contemporaries had nothing to say against it. Some of them only condemned it on the ground that it was unjust to impose it only upon one class of the community, and to exempt the other classes from its payment. They said that it was very unjust that a poor graindealer should be taxed, while a rich landed proprietor whose annual income amounted to a lakh of rupees, should escape scot free. If the tax were levied upon every class of the community, it would be quite unobjectionable. But Lord Lytton and Sir John Strachey did not listen to these objections, and restricted the operation of the Trades License Act entirely to the mercantile classes. As the income derived from the tax was to be spent in saving the poor from perishing from hunger in time of distress, those persons on whom it was imposed gladly paid it even if it pressed severely upon them. Persons have been generally over-taxed, but who can have the courage to say so? At the time of the introduction of the license tax Lord Lytton declared that the entire income of the

tax would be devoted to the prevention and relief of famine; and that not a farthing would be devoted to any other purpose. But he has broken his promise. The Hindu law provides very severe punishment for the violation of a promise. If Lord Lytton were a Hindu, he would suffer qualms of conscience. He has not broken his promise with perfect impunity. He has incurred popular opprobrium by appropriating the famine insurance fund to the payment of the cost of the war. We have little interest in his personal reputation; we can gain or lose nothing from his good or bad name; but what is a matter of deep concern to us is that his conduct, being destructive of the confidence which we reposed in the Government, is calculated to be prejudicial both to our own interests and those of the Government. His policy has been also denounced by some men in England. In the last Budget Resolution Sir John Strachey has tried to defend Lord Lytton. from the charge of breach of faith. He says that the Government promised that it would devote the money realized from the levy of the license-tax to no purpose except the relief of famine, but that man proposes and God disposes. The Government has been obliged by force of circumstances to defray the cost of the war from the famine insurance fund. This is a fresh proof of the proverb above referred to. Mr. Yule, the President of the Bengal Chamber of Commerce, strongly condemned the policy of the Government the other day. He observed that the misappropriation of the famine fund was not in itself of great consequence, but that the Government has deceived the public, which is very bad. When the Bengal Chamber of Commerce and even some of the members of the Viceregal Council condemn the action of the Government, it is natural that it should endeavour to defend itself from the charge brought against it. It says that it is true that the famine insurance fund has been devoted to the payment of the cost of the war, but that the money will be afterwards restored to the famine fund. Whether the Government will restore the money or not, we

cannot say. However, it is a matter of great satisfaction that it is alive to the public reproach to which its breach of faith has exposed it.

Circulation, 225 copies. A correspondent of the Agra Akhbar of the 28th June (received on 5th July) is glad to state that the Government always takes important suggestions made by any

man into its favourable consideration. Some time ago the Anjuman-i-Panjab mooted the question of the establishment of The Government has called for the opivillage panchaits. nions of all district Judges about the expedience of establishing village panchaits and bestowing summary powers upon lower courts. We have already briefly expressed our opinion regarding the proposed establishment of panchaits (see page 420 of the Selections for the week ending the 29th May, 1879, and the question has been fully discussed by the Anjuman-i-We will therefore now say nothing on this subject, Panjab. and confine our attention wholly to the proposal of granting summary powers to courts. The bestowal of summary powers upon civil and criminal courts will undoubtedly be very useful to the people, but it is not every officer who can make a proper use of such powers. There are many officers who. perform their work in a perfunctory way. Magistrates have already been vested with summary powers, and the Small Cause Courts may be also considered to be courts of summary powers. If the Government enquired into the way in which these powers have been exercised, it would think it necessary to withdraw the powers from many officers. Summary powers should be conferred only upon able and industrious officers.

Circulation, 475 copies.

The Rahbari Hind of the 7th July publishes a long article, communicated by a correspondent, on the question of the establishment of village panchaits. The writer approves of the establishment, and repeats the same arguments in support of the measure that have been urged by other persons, viz., that panchaits will place cheap and speedy justice within

reach of poor persons; that the regular courts will be relieved of a great deal of petty litigation, &c.

The Bhárat Bandhu of the 4th July complains that many hakims and vaids are ignorant persons and know nothing of medicine. The Government should prescribe an examination for them, and no man should be allowed to practice medicine without passing that examination. The native attars or druggists sell adulterated medicines. The municipal committees should check this evil, and make some arrangements for the supply of pure and unadulterated medicines to patients.

POST-OFFICE.

The Mashiri Qaisar of the 6th July says that some ignorant persons believe that the Govern-The quarter-anna post ment does not pay any attention to cards. the writings of the vernacular press, but they are mistaken. A native paper lately made some complaints against the Northern Bengal State Railway. The Government of India soon instituted enquiries into those complaints, as appears from a communication of the Press Commissioner to the public press. About seven or eight years ago we and the Lawrence Gazette urged the expedience of reduction of postage from half an anna to quarter of an anna, and the result is that the Government has now introduced quarter anna post cards, for which we are very thankful to it. But it would be much better if it had reduced the postage on letters from half an anua to quarter of an anna, because private messages sent by post cards become known to the public. Moreover, the writer urges that the postage on newspapers should be reduced from half an anna to quarter of an anna on the ground that the reduction of postage will be a great encouragement to the press.

The Koh-i-Nér of the 5th July concurs with the Oudh

Akhbár in thinking that the reduction
of postage on letters not exceeding

Circulation, 175 copies.

Circulation, 150 copies.

Circulation; 630 copies, I tola in weight from half an anna to quarter of an anna would have been better than the introduction of the new quarter anna post cards, and that the postage on newspapers should be also reduced (see page 500 of the Selections for the week ending the 26th June, 1879).

Circulation, 250 copies. The Shola Tar, Cawnpore, of the 8th July, in regard to the new post cards, remarks that the use of the cards will not become very extensive, as the secrecy of the message is not preserved. If the sender were allowed to cover the message with a thin piece of paper, the secrecy of the message would be secured without increasing the weight of the card in an appreciable degree, and the use of the cards would be greatly encouraged.

The Shola Tier then proceeds to state that the postal authoties are very anxious to secure the safe delivery of "paid" letters, and wish that the despatch of "bearing" letters may be gradually altogether stopped. The large post-offices have received an order from the Postmaster-General to the effect that " paid" letters should be delivered to the addressees on the very day of arrival, but that "bearing" letters should lie for one day at the post-office. But in our opinion this order is not calculated to accomplish the object in view. To discourage the despatch of "bearing" letters, arrangements should be made to secure safe and speedy delivery of "paid" letters by the post-poons. The poons generally delay the delivery of " paid" letters addressed to poor persons who do not live in principal streets and thoroughfares. In order to prevent this delay and loss of letters on the part of peons, they should be ordered to obtain the signature or mark of the addressee in their books, and the postmaster should see whether all the letters have been distributed by each peen or not, by comparing the number of signatures with the number of letters he made over to the peon. This practice has already been adopted by the postmaster of Belgram, Hardoi, (Oudh).

The Shola Tar then complains that there is a great delay in the delivery of letters addressed to villages situated two or three miles from the post-office. The cause of the delay is that there is generally only one harkara or messenger attached to each branch post-office. He does not go to a distant village until several letters for that village have been accumulated at the post-office. Sometimes a letter lies over for eight or ten days. In order to obviate this delay the number of harkaras at each branch post-office should be increased. The additional cost which the measure would involve could be recouped by an increase in the income of the post-office, as improved arrangements for the delivery of letters would surely increase the number of letters that pass through the post-office; if not, an additional half-anna may be charged on each letter addressed to a distant village.

LOCAL AND MISCELLANEOUS.

The local correspondent of the Berar Samachar of the 6th Circulation, July complains that the municipal The removal of dirty water from naudans, Akocommittee of Akola has issued an order to the effect that every person should make his own arrangements for the removal of dirty water from the nábdán (gutter) of his house, and always keep it clean, and contends that the committee should have this work done by municipal sweepers.

(A new fortnightly paper, entitled the Akhbar-i-Jalesar, has been started at Jalesar, Agra, from the 1st July, by one Muhammad Vajih-ud-din.)

250 copies.

LIST OF PAPERS EXAMINED.

CIRODIATION.		650 copies.	i	225 100	•	125 90 80	297 copies (including 63	copies taken by Govt.) 57 copies.	130 "	copies taken by Govt.)
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LANGUAGE.	Urdu	Ditto Ditto	Ditto	Ditto Ditto Ditto	Ditto Ditto Marathi	Urdu
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NAME.	Mashir-i-Qaisar	88 Mihir-i-Darakhshan, 89 Mitra Bilas 40 Mutla-i-Ner 41 Naiar-i-Azam 42 Najard Akhbar	Vasim-i-Agra	Narie Afahan Narial-Amoar Nasratus Akhbar Oudh Akhbar	48 Panjab-i-Akhbár 49 Panjab Punch 50 Pramod Sindhá	S

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8th 9th 5th	stn 5th	10th 4th 8th	9th 5th
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ti:	June	July	11
7th 5th 30th	May, 15th & June	8th 1st 28th &	5th 30th
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	Ditto	Weekly Ditto	Ditto Ditto
Ditto Ditto			Irdu Iarathi
Moradabad	Allahabad, Bengali Lahore Arabic	Cawnpore, I Meerut	Amritsar, U
54 Rahbar-i-Hind Lahore 55 Rohilkhand Akhbar. Moradabad 56 Sadiq-ul-Akhbar Bhawalpur	Shafah-ul Sudur	59 Shola-i-Tur Cawnpore, Urdu Meerut Ditto 10 11 Urdu Akhbar Akola Marathi	Vakil-i-Hindustán

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